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SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

May 05, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 2174 - UNKNOWN)
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR
Captions: None
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: POWELL'S WARNINGS TO SYRIA IRAQ THE
ROADMAP
Ref: None

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 02174

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: PAO
INFO: POL AMB DCM ECON
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ACTION: PAO

DISSEMINATION: PAO
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: PAO:KVANDEVATE
DRAFTED: PAO:AALKHATIB
CLEARED: PAO:TPONCE

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OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZM RUEHLO RUEHFR
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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9788
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0653
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0707
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//
RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//PA//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 002174

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STATE FOR NEA/ARP; NEA/PPD; NEA/RA; INR/R/MR; PA;
INR/NESA; INR/B; IIP/G/NEA-SA
WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE; NSC
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH; PARIS FOR O'FRIEL

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: POWELL'S WARNINGS TO SYRIA IRAQ THE
ROADMAP

1. SUMMARY: POWELL'S WARNINGS TO SYRIA, THE RECONSTRUCTION OF

IRAQ, AND THE ROADMAP DOMINATED COVERAGE IN UAE PRINT MEDIA. AN "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIAL CRITICIZED THE SITUATION IN THE REGION FOLLOWING THE WAR IN IRAQ AND ARAB ATTITUDES TOWARDS RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, NOTING THAT THE U.S. AIM IS TO PROTECT ISRAEL. ANOTHER "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIAL LABELED U.S. THREATS TO SYRIA AS GUARANTEES OF ISRAEL'S SECURITY. AN "AKHBAR AL ARAB" EDITORIAL URGED THE U.S. TO EXERT SERIOUS EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT THE ROADMAP AND NOT TO BE AFFECTED BY ISRAEL'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS IT. END SUMMARY.

¶2. CONDOLEEZZA RICE'S INTERVIEW WITH THE ISRAELI NEWSPAPER "YEDIOTH AHRONOTH" RECEIVED EXTENSIVE EDITORIAL COVERAGE IN UAE ARABIC MEDIA, WHO QUOTED HER AS SAYING "THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES THAT ISRAEL'S SECURITY IS THE KEY TO SECURITY NOT ONLY IN THE REGION, BUT ALSO IN THE WORLD."

¶3. Criticizing the situation in the region after the war in Iraq and Arab attitudes towards recent developments, Sharjah-based pan-Arab daily "Al-Khaleej" editorialized 5/05:

"... It seems that some or even most of the Arabs did not understand that they should eliminate 'resistance,' 'struggle,' 'jihad' and 'liberation' from their dictionary, intellect, agenda, and even their memory. Besides, Arabism, pan-Arabism, unity or anything in this regard must be eliminated and replaced with concession, surrender, submission, and reality under the pretext of modernization, rationale and the balance of power ... A memory has to be drilled and later erased. Minds, hearts, and passions have to be replaced. Skin has to be extracted, books and heritage and all that has to do with genuineness and Arab civilization should be destroyed, similar to what happened to Iraq's museums and libraries. We are expected to replace this in order to present our credentials for the new American era in a world where its security has become the security of Israel, its life is Israel's life, and its future is Israel's future, as Condoleezza and others believe ..."

¶4. NOTING THE SUDDEN CHANGE IN THE U.S. TONE TOWARDS SYRIA, ABU DHABI-BASED SEMI-GOVERNMENT "AL ITTIHAD" EDITORIALIZED 5/05:

"THE SUDDEN CHANGE OF TONE BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND SYRIA, WHICH CHANGED FROM THAT OF A DEBATE AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING TO THAT OF THREATS AND INTIMIDATIONS THROUGH THE MEDIA IS VERY REGRETTABLE ... THE U.S. REALIZES THAT ANY NEW TREMORS IN THE REGION WILL HAVE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES NOT ONLY ON PLANS FOR IRAQ BUT ALSO FOR PALESTINE AND THE MIDDLE EAST ..."

¶5. Commenting on Secretary Powell's visit to Syria and his demands, Sharjah-based pan-Arab daily "Al-Khaleej" editorialized 5/04:

"... As we thoroughly ponder these demands, we realize that these are issues that have nothing to do with the bilateral relationships between Syria and Lebanon on one hand and the U.S. on the other. These issues are related to the Arab-Israeli conflict and directly to 'Israeli Security,' which has nothing to do with U.S. security, and the U.S. has summed up the world's security as 'Israeli security.' Powell's visit is to achieve this goal, which is to remove all factors threatening the security of the Zionists, and this is also one of the major reasons for the occupation of Iraq. So saying that the major aim for the U.S. war against Iraq was on behalf of Israel is not far from the truth; it is the reason behind Powell's visit to Damascus and Beirut ..."

¶6. UNDER THE HEADLINE "POWELL AND HIS ISRAELI AGENDA," "AL-KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED 5/03:

"... SYRIA REALIZES THAT THEY FACE DANGERS, CHALLENGES, AND DIRECT PRESSURES, BUT THEY ALSO REALIZE THAT THEY CAN'T FORGET THEIR UNCHANGEABLE PATRIOTIC NATIONALISM RELATED TO THEIR LAND AND THEIR RIGHTS, BECAUSE IF THIS HAPPENS, IT MEANS ITS (SYRIA) DOWNFALL AND SURRENDER ..."

¶7. CLAIMING WASHINGTON IS COMMITTING A NUMBER OF MISTAKES WITH THE NEW PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT, DUBAI-BASED BUSINESS-ORIENTED ARABIC DAILY "AL-BAYAN" EDITORIALIZED 5/03:

"... WASHINGTON, WITH ITS FOCUS ON ABU MAZEN THAT REACHES AN EXTENT OF 'POLISHING' IN AN EFFORT TO REMOVE ARAFAT FROM THE POLITICAL SCENE, IS GIVING THE WRONG SIGNS TO THE PALESTINIANS AND IS MAKING THEM SKEPTICAL OF THE NEW PRIME MINISTER'S REAL MISSION THAT PUSHES THEM TO ENCIRCLE HIM INTERNALLY ... ADDED TO THAT, PALESTINE IS NOT AN ISSUE OF A PERSON OR AN AUTHORITY, IT IS CONNECTED TO THE INTERNATIONAL DECISIONS THAT SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED WITH NO EDITING OR TRICKS, IN ORDER FOR THIS ARAB LAND TO BE LIBERATED AND FOR THE MIDDLE EAST TO BECOME STABLE ..."

¶8. REFLECTING ON POWELL'S STATEMENT FOLLOWING THE "MASSACRE" COMMITTED IN GAZA YESTERDAY, "AL ITTIHAD" EDITORIALIZED 5/03:

"... SECRETARY OF STATE COLIN POWELL'S RESPONSE TO THE ISRAELI INTENSIFICATION IN GAZA YESTERDAY CONFIRMS THAT 'THE ROADMAP WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AS IS AND IN TIME.' AND HIS INVITATION 'TO EXCEED THE SUICIDAL ATTACKS AND THE REVENGE OPERATIONS' EXPLAINS THE WAY TO ACHIEVE PEACE IN PALESTINE AND THE REGION ... POWELL'S COMMENTS ARE APPROPRIATE AND SYMBOLIZE A GOOD IDEA OF THE WAY TO ACHIEVE THE EXPECTED GOALS. WHOEVER WANTS PEACE SHOULD EXCEED THAT NEVER-ENDING WHIRLPOOL OF REVENGE AND VIOLENCE. THE ROAD IS CLEAR AND REQUESTS SERIOUS INITIATIVES ..."

¶9. COMMENTING ON ISRAEL'S RESPONSE TO THE "ROADMAP," ABU DHABI-BASED PAN-ARAB DAILY "AKHBAR AL ARAB" EDITORIALIZED ON 5/02:

"... IF THE U.S. IS SERIOUS ABOUT IMPLEMENTING THE 'ROADMAP,' AND ITS CREDIBILITY IS NOW AT STAKE, THEN IT (THE U.S.) SHOULD ATTEMPT TO IMPLEMENT IT (THE ROADMAP) WITHOUT ANY INTERFERENCE OR MODIFICATION AND WITHIN A SPECIFIC TIME SPAN ..."

¶10. IMPLICATING ISRAELI PM ARIEL SHARON FOR THE 'MASSACRES' COMMITTED IN PALESTINE, "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED 5/02:

"... WHOEVER BETS ON AMERICAN PRESSURE ON ISRAEL ... IS ONLY LIVING IN ANOTHER WORLD, ESPECIALLY AFTER THE AMERICAN VIOLENCE IN IRAQ SIMILAR IN GOALS TO THAT OF ZIONIST VIOLENCE IN PALESTINE. IT IS THE SEASON OF MASSACRES AGAINST ARABS, AND THE POLITICAL CRUMBS THAT HAVE BEEN DELIVERED ARE ONLY PART OF A COMEDY THAT SUCCEEDED IN THE PAST. THE BETS ARE STILL ON REGARDING THE SUCCESS OF ITS (THE COMEDY) NEW CHAPTERS."

WAHBA